Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 12163 091622Z

70
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

DHA-02 MCT-01 ACDA-07 /080 W
---------- 043385
R 091526Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6892
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T CAIRO 12163

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, LE
SUBJECT: DR. AL-KHULI ON LEBANON

1. DR. AL-KHULI TOLD CHARGE SEPTEMBER 9 THAT HE INTENDS FLY TO DAMASCUS SEPTEMBER 10 AND FOLLOWING DAY DRIVE TO BEIRUT. HE WILL CONTACT EMBASSY BEIRUT SEPTEMBER 13BOTH TO PICK UP ARMORED VEST (SEE SEPTEL, NOTAL) AND ALSO TO OFFER ANY APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE TO CHARGE HUNT. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, HE REITERATED HIS DETERMINATION TO MAKE HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY BEIRUT TO HELP US IN ANY WAY HE CAN.

2. DR. AL-KHULI MADE SEVERAL OBSERVATIONS TO EMBOFF WHICH ARE OF INTEREST:

A. SARKIS MUST BE INSTALLED. AL-KHULI VEHEMNTLY AFFIRMED HIS VIEW THAT INSTALLATION OF SARKIS IS "ABSOLUETLY VITAL." CHAMOUNSIT FORCES PUMPED 75 ROUNDS OF RPG INTO WALL SURROUNDING VILLA WHERE OATHS WILL BE ADMINSITERED, BUT AL FORCES WILL REPAIR WALL IMMEDIATELY. IF VILLA IS JUDGED
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 12163 091622Z

UNSAFE FOR MEETING OF PARLIAMENT, THEN ANOTHER SITE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

WILL BE DESIGNATED. AL-KHULI MADE IT CLEAR THAT
INSTALLATION SARKIS IS HIS PRIME POLITICAL OBJECTIVE.

B. CHAMOUN. EMBOFF ASKED IF FRANJIYA AND CHAMOUN
WILL ALLOW SARKIS TO TAKE OFFICE. AL-KHULI REPLIED THAT
"WORST ELEMENTS" IN SITUATION ARE CHAMOUN AND JUMBLATT,
BUT THAT CHAMOUN IS "NOT POPULAR" AMONGST MARONITES.
GEMAYEL, AL-KHULI VOLUNTEERED, WILL NOT PERMIT CHAMOUN
TO BE EITHER PRESIDENT OR PRIMIN. WE SHOULD KNOW THAT
CHAMOUN CANNOT IMPOSE HIMSELF ON SITUATION-KATA'IB WILL
NOT ALLOW HIM TO DO SO. "IF SARKIS IS STILL ALIVE ON
SEPTEMBER 23," HE WILL BE SWORN IN AND CHAMOUN CANNOT STOP
IT.

C. ASAD'S OBJECTIVES. EMBOFF OBSERVED THAT IT SOMETIMES
SEEMS THAT SARG MAY NOT HAVE DETAILED PLAN OF ACTION AND
THAT TACTICS AND PERHAPS STRATEGY ARE CONSTANTLY REVISED
IN DAMASCUS. AL-KHULI SAID HE HAD ASKED ASAD THE LAST TIME
HE SAW HIM WHAT HIS OBJECTIVES ARE, BUT DID NOT REVEAL
ASAD'S REPLY. IN ANY CASE, AL-KHULI ADDED, MAIN BUSINESS
OF OCTOBER ARAB SUMMIT WILL BE TO ASCERTAIN SARG'S
OBJECTIVES. "WE WILL ASK ASAD" TO DEFINE THEM. AL-KHULI
ADDED THAT HE HAD STRESSED TO ASAD THAT SARG HAS ALLOWED ITSELF
TO BECOME ONE OF FOUR DISPUTANTS INSTEAD OF REAL ARBITER AND THAT A
SYRIAN ARMY POISED ON LEBANESE BORDER WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE
PRESSURE DEVICE THAN PRESENCE OF 50,000 SYRIAN TROOPS
(THREE DIVISIONS) FIGHTING IT OUT WITHIN LEBANON.

D. CEASE-FIRE IN JABAL. AL-KHULI REVEALED THAT HE
HOPED TO BEING INTO EFFECT IN NEXT FEW DAYS A "SECRET
AGREEMENT" ESTABLISHING A CEASE-FIRE ON THE AINTOURA
FRONT, BUT HE DID NOT OFFER ANY DETAILS.

E. SECURITY SITUATION. IN LAST FEW DAYS, KIDNAPPING
HAS VIRTUALLY CEASED, A DEVELOPMENT WHICH AL-KHULI
DESCRIBED AS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT.

F. KHADDAM TO UNGA. AL-KHULI SAID KHADDAM HAD TOLD
HIM AT ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL THAT HE WOULD BE GOING TO
UNGA BUT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO STAY MORE THAN ONE WEEK.
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2. COMMENT: EMBOFF EXPRESSED USG'S ADMIRATION FOR
DR. AL-KHULI'S PERSEVERENCE AND COURAGE AND WISHED HIM
GOOD LUCK. HE RESPONDED BY STRESSING AGAIN THAT HE WANTS
USG TO KNOW THAT HE STANDS READY TO HELP IN ANY WAY THAT HE
CAN AND IS DETERMINED TO PRESS ON WITH HIS PEACE-MAKING EFFORTS.
AS USUAL, HE EXUDED ENERGY AND DETERMINATION. MATTHEWS

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